

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 00426 192155Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 EB-07 SCA-01 H-01 INR-07
DLOS-06 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 COME-00
SAL-01 OES-06 NSC-05 PA-01 JUSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 /072 W
-----192201Z 103028 /71

O R 192140Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2940
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 426

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS EC
SUBJ: GOE DENIES TUNABOAT INCIDENT

REF: QUITO 0402

1. SUMMARY: ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES DENIED THAT INCIDENT
BETWEEN NAVY AND US TUNABOAT HAD TAKEN PLACE AS REPORTED
BY AFP. ECUADOREAN NAVY ANGERED BY ALLEGATIONS. EMBASSY
AGAIN URGES THAT TUNABOAT ASSOCIATION DEPARTMENT ISSUE STATEMENT
ON MATTER.

2. UNDERSECRETARY OF FISHING RESOURCES CAPT. RAUL CANIZARES
IN A STATEMENT CARRIED IN THE PRESS JAN. 19 DENIED THAT THE
INCIDENT REPORTED BY AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE (AFP) INVOLVING AN
ECUADOREAN PATROL BOAT AND AN AMERICAN TUNABOAT (REFTEL) HAD
TAKEN PLACE. HE MAINTAINED THAT ALL INTERESTED IN FISHING IN
ECUADOREAN WATERS WERE APPLYING FOR LICENSES NORMALLY.

3. TODAY MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE NAVAL REPRESENTATIVE AS ACCOSTED
BY ECUADOREAN NAVAL OFFICERS ANGERED BY STORY AND SUSPICIOUS
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THAT SOMEBODY IN SAN DIEGO "HAD IT IN" FOR THE ECUADOR-
EAN NAVY. THE FELT THAT REPORT WAS EMBARRASSING AND
DAMAGED THEIR REPUTATION.

4. EMBASSY'S MILITARY STAFF FIND THAT DURING TIME PUR-
PORTED INCIDENT OCCURRED, THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE ECUADOR-
EAN NAVAL VESSEL CAPABLE OF FIRING A CANNON AND OF NAVIGATING

MORE THAN TEN MILES FROM COAST WHICH WAS OPERATIVE. THEY CONCLUDE THEREFORE THAT IF A TUNABOAT WAS FIRED ON, IT WAS DONE BY SOME OTHER COUNTRY'S NAVY. (THE POOR STATE OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY IS, OF COURSE, VERY SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND SHOULD BE CLOSELY GUARDED.)

5. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, IT SEEMS VERY UNLIKELY THAT ECUADOR WAS INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT. IT ALSO SEEMS THAT UNLESS WE ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE ECUADOREAN STATEMENT, THE BRITTLE TUNA FISHING "TRUCE" THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE WORKED SO HARD ON FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS MAY BE ENDANGERED. FOR THIS REASON, WE ONCE AGAIN URGE THAT TUNABOAT ASSOCIATION OR DEPARTMENT ISSUE (OR AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO RELEASE IN QUITO) A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IN VIEW OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION: A) IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ECUADOR WAS INVOLVED IN INCIDENT AND B) IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT US TUNABOATS ARE OBTAINING ECUADOREAN LICENSES. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD HEAL WOUNDED AMOUR PROPRE OF NAVY AND ALLOW US TO PROCEED TO COOPERATE WITH ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES AS FISHING SEASON OPENS.

BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: EFIS, EC
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